A monthly publication

October 2010

WE ARE PURPOSE DRIVEN

Comstock Communicator

Comstock Council Clips

The Council met on September 14 to discuss church matters and pray for our church. Here are some highlights.

1. The deacons reported that the house renovation project for a Comstock resident is nearly complete. Gratitude was expressed for the deacons taking on this project.

2. Our main topic of discussion dealt with recommendations from the Vision Team.

a. First, the council voted to approve a recommendation that will adjust the structure of the council by the year 2012. The new structure will have the council comprised from three different groups, an Administrative Council (comprised of elders and deacons), Shepherding Elders, and Service Deacons. More information will come as the details are worked out.

b. Second, the council voted to approve a recommendation that will change the schedule for office bearer nomination and installation. The nomination process will now take place in the spring. Council terms will now begin and end at the end of spring. This will put the council schedule in line with the ministry year schedule, so that transitions will take place at the end of the ministry year, rather than in the middle.

3. We also discussed how to fill the vacant elder spot due to Howard Nash's resignation earlier this year. We decided to seek nominees out to fulfill his term of office, which now ends in May 2012. More information will be coming on this as we seek to have this taken care of at the December congregational meeting.

Highlights from the meeting

Picture Directory

We have completed most of the pictures for the directory. If you still need your picture taken, please talk to Lisa Bosch.

A big thank you to Steve French for taking all the pictures for us!

You are also welcome to submit your own picture via email.

Everyone will be getting the information in your mailboxes soon for you to check over and make sure there are no mistakes. Also if you want to add some more information, we would love to have that. Look for these in your mailboxes soon. After you have checked them over and added information, please return them to Lisa via the secretary mailbox or bring them into the church office.

Thank you.

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Special points of interest:

- *The World is not Conclusion*
- *Check out our new books*
- *College Kids Addresses*
- *October Birthdays & Anniversaries*
- *Monthly calendar*

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR BEN

As I was thinking of what to write for this month, I decided to attempt to make it interactive. Various thoughts have fascinated my mind in recent days and I thought I could pass on the fun. Below I have explained partially what these thoughts have been, but I am asking for your involvement. They are riddles, puzzles, or mysteries to consider. Reflect on them a bit, not merely seeking to get an answer, but also to be drawn closer to God's person and wonderful work. If you come up with a good answer to any of them, pass them on to me. I will have a reward for those who participate.

1. I am working on a journal of our experiences in Ethiopia. My idea is to give this as a gift to Selah when she is old enough to read and understand. As I was writing about the second trip, it struck me that we left on Labor Day and I found that to be filled with symbolic meaning. What symbolic meaning might that have?

2. As I was studying this past week, I reflected on finding one word that could be used to summarize the message of the Bible. What one word could be used to summarize the Bible's message about God acting toward us and us acting toward God? What one word would you choose?

3. As I was putting together the Bible study for Sunday's youth group meeting, I included Ephesians 3.16-19. We're talking about living life to the full and what that life looks like. In this passage in Ephesians, Paul talks about fullness and of being "filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Earlier, in v. 18, he offers a prayer that we may come to grasp "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." Paul is presenting us with a geometrical vision here. I wondered, from a geometrical standpoint, what would be the volume of the love of Christ? Depending on that, what would it take for us to "be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God"?

Hopefully, you gain enjoyment from the above exercises. I look forward to your submissions!

In the same spirit of puzzles and mysteries, here is a poem by Emily Dickinson about eternity as it is such a puzzlement to those who do not know Christ. But to those who know him, they are willing to give all to gain forever with him.

In Christ,

Pastor Ben

The world is not conclusion;
A sequel stands beyond.
Invisible, as music,
But positive, as sound.
It beckons and it baffles;
Philosophies don't know,
And through a riddle, at the last,
Sagacity must go.
To guess it puzzles scholars;
To gain it, men have shown
Contempt of generations,
And crucifixion known.

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

In light of the recent, joyful event of Pastor Ben's family receiving a beautiful baby girl through adoption, I remembered an inspiring little book called, **Love Stories of Adoption** which was donated by the Nowaks some years back. It contains true "love stories", both heartfelt and poignant from real birth parents, which are further evidence that adoption can truly be a loving option. I encourage you to read these stories and be uplifted, as you see the hand of God directing these birth parents as to the best choice for raising these precious children as their own.

Those of you who enjoy a good laugh (all ages) may enjoy listening to a CD version of **'My Life as a Smashed Burrito"** and **"My Life as Alien Monster Bait"** (we have these books in the children's section). Enter the incredible world of Wally McDoogle for two hours worth of listening fun that also teaches valuable biblical lessons.

NEW BOOKS:

Coming Back Stronger: A Memoir *by Drew Brees* – After his career-threatening shoulder surgery, coaches wondered if Drew Brees would ever play football again. Then Hurricane Katrina left New Orleans under water – and the Saints homeless. Now the Super Bowl MVP shares the inspiring story of an injured quarterback, a devastated city, and an uprooted team that turned adversity into success and despair into hope. Many of you know the exciting outcome!

If God is Good – Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil *by Randy Alcorn* – How can we reconcile a good and all-powerful God with the terrible evil and suffering we see in this world? This is probably the single greatest dilemma in human existence. Here Alcorn offers insights from his conversations with men and women whose lives have been torn apart by suffering, and yet whose faith in God burns brighter than ever. He reveals the big picture of who God is and what God is doing in this world – now and forever. Through compelling stories, provocative questions and answers, and keen biblical understanding, this popular author brings assurance and hope to all.

Predator *by Terri Blackstock* – The murder of Krista's 14 yr. old sister by an online predator has shaken her faith and made her question God's justice and protection. Desperate to find the killer, she creates on online persona to bait the predator. But now, her search for the predator has made her the prey . . . Another page-turning thriller by Ms. Blackstone that you won't want to miss!

The Blessing *by Smalley & Trent* – This best-seller from the 80's is every bit as interesting and relevant today. Our emotional and psychological make-up is such that we all need what the Bible calls "the blessing" – the knowledge that someone in this world loves and accepts us unconditionally. We especially crave the blessing of our parents and are hurt if we don't feel we have it. But this lack can be felt between brothers & sisters or husbands & wives, or even within a church. In their years of counseling, the authors have successfully used the concepts outlined here to heal hundreds of broken hearts and

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These kids work very hard at their college studies, whether home or away at college and an encouraging note is ALWAYS a wonderful thing to receive. They are so happy to know that we are all here praying for them and keeping them in our thoughts! Send them a note soon and let them know we care.

All grandparents of past and present KCSA middle school students and any other "friends of KCSA" are invited to come to Heritage Day on Tues., Oct., 19, 10 a.m. in the middle school gym. The new superintendent of KCSA schools, Dr. Roger Sikkenga, will be the speaker. Please come for a time of worship with the middle school students, mingle with friends, and enjoy some refreshments.

Bracelets for Bethany

There are bracelets on the back table which you are free to take as a visual reminder to pray for little Bethany Bullerman.

Donations are optional but appreciated.

If you have any questions, please talk to Becky Smith.

Happy Birthday

2 Roger Selles
4 Jerry Poortenga
10 Becky Smith
11 Betty Schaap
12 John Dykstra
14 Courtney Kersten
18 Eric Selles
20 Joanne Karsten
Grace Slager
21 Joyce Cramer
David Joling
25 Karen Triemstra
31 Bev VanOosterum

Happy Anniversary

10/5/02 Joel & Cindy Amos
10/14/95 Mike & Karen Tiesman
10/17/55 Don & Jan Selles
10/23/65 Gary & Carol VanderLugt

The Communicator is published by and for the members and friends of Comstock CRC.

Editor: Lisa Bosch
Library: Thea McNeilage

The November issue will come out on October 31. All articles need to be submitted by October 26.

October Schedules

NURSERY

	AM	PM
10/3	Mike & Dawn Kersten Family	Ronda Slager
10/10	Jack & Joanne Karsten Family	Joanne Smit
10/17	Roger & Chris Selles Family	Cindy Amos
10/24	Rachel Slager & Morgan French	Ruth Slager
10/31	Mark & Julie Smit Family	Lisa Bosch

OFFERINGS

	AM	PM
10/3	Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed.	Race Relations'
10/10	Comstock Ministries/Benevolent	Christian Ed.
10/17	Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed.	Bethany Chr. Services
10/24	Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed.	Missions
10/31	Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed.	Home Missions

ACCOMPANISTS

	PM
10/10	Barb Hassing
10/24	Kay Triemstra
10/31	Joy Koning

LIBRARIANS

10/3 & 10 Esther Post
10/17, 24, 31 Karen Triemstra

WELCOME CENTER

10/3 Mark & Julie Smit
10/10 Mike & Karen Tiesman
10/17 Dwain & Becky Cramer
10/24 Todd & Karen Triemstra
10/31 Rod & Henrietta Linders

GREETERS

AM - Tom Triemstra & Walt Cramer
PM - Rich & Esther Post

COFFEE SERVER

Deb Cramer

USHERS

AM - Josh VanderLugt & James Karsten
PM - Steve French

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

10/10 Leah Brower & Megan Nowak
10/17 Leah Brower & Morgan French
10/24 Thea McNeilage & Katie Lee
10/31 Thea McNeilage & Abigail Triemstra

SONG SERVICE LEADERS

10/10 Walt Cramer
10/17 MaryLee Gosnell
10/24 Jim Bosch
10/31 Mark Smit

TECH TEAM

10/10 & 31 Mark & Matt Terpstra
10/17 Scott & Seth Brower
10/24 Jim & Tina Slager

October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	*2* *3 pm YPS/Council Softball game*
3 *6:15-8:30 YPS Tyler T. supper*	*4* *5 pm Evangelism team to serve at River Manor*	*5* *12 pm Pastor's Luncheon in Fellowship hall*	*6* *9:30 am Ladies Bible Study* *6:30 pm Gems & Cadets*	*7* *1 pm Prayer Time* *7 pm Ladies Bible study*	*8*	*9*
10 *9:30 am Celebration of Lord's Supper*	*11*	*12* *7 pm Council*	*13* *9:30 am Layette*	*14*	*15*	*16*
17 *6:15 YPS - Seth Brower supper*	*18*	*19*	*20* *9:30 Ladies Bible Study* *6:30 Gems & Cadets*	*21* *7 pm Ladies Bible Study*	*22*	*23*
24	*25*	*26* *5-6:30 Booster Supper*	*27* *8:30 am Fellowship Breakfast at Theo & Stacys*	*28*	*29*	*30* *5:30-7:00 PM Trunk or Treat at Merrill Park*
31 *5 pm - Celebration of Lord's Supper*						